

West Nile Virus & St. Louis Encephalitis End of Year Report, 2021

West Nile virus (WNV) arrived in Arizona in 2003 and is now endemic in Maricopa County. St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLE) is a rare mosquito-borne disease in Maricopa County. Maricopa County Department of Public Health Office of Epidemiology and Data Services collaborates with the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department Vector Control Division to identify and monitor areas of WNV and SLE activity. This report describes trends in human infections during 2021. Maricopa County saw more WNV cases in 2021 than any year since the virus first arrived in Arizona.

Year Total*	Non-neuroinvasive	Neuroinvasive	Hospitalized	Deaths				Sex at Birth M/F	Median Age (Min, Max)	Race/Ethnicity
WNV 1480**	526 Fever	615 Encephalitis 319 Meningitis 20 Other Neuro	920 Neuroinvasive 91 Non-neuroinvasive	101				842/638	66 (2, 97)	1084 White, Non-Hispanic 77 Hispanic or Latino
				Neuroinvasive 101	Median Age [†] (Min, Max) 79 (32, 95)	Sex at Birth M/F 70/31	Race/Ethnicity 84 White, Non-Hispanic 5 Hispanic or Latino 12 Other/Unknown			23 Other, Non-Hispanic 16 Black, Non-Hispanic 13 Asian/Pacific Island 267 Unknown
SLE 11	<5	*	* Neuroinvasive <5 Non-neuroinvasive			0		* /<5	73 (52, 88)	5 White, Non-Hispanic <5 Asian/Pacific Island <5 Black, Non-Hispanic <5 Hispanic or Latino <5 Unknown

^{*}Cases are counted in the year in which they are reported to Public Health. One case in the year total had illness onset in 2020; 10 cases and one death were reported in 2022 and are not in the year total.

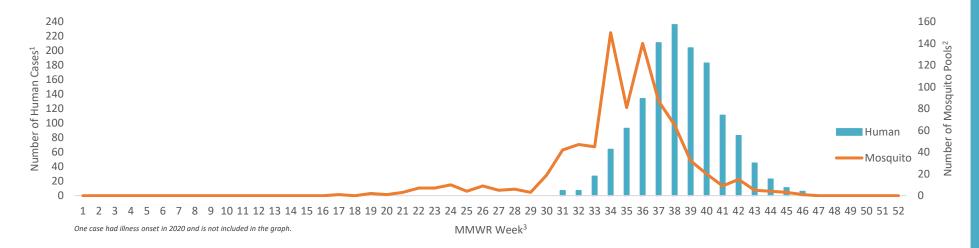
*Data are suppressed to prevent identification of cases due to small number (< 5) of cases

^{**}WNV viremic donors who did not become symptomatic (n=79) and those who did not have fever or neurological illness (n=79) are not included in year total. [†]The difference in the mean age of WNV survivors (62 yrs) vs deaths (77 yrs) was statistically significant (α =0.05). WNV Deaths 2017-2021 Human Infections of WNV by Month Onset 5 Year Average 120 100 80 500 60 40 20 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec 10 Human Infections of SLE by Month Onset 5 Year Average SLE Deaths 2017-2021 10 8 Dec 2017 2018 2019 2021 Oct 2020 Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Nov

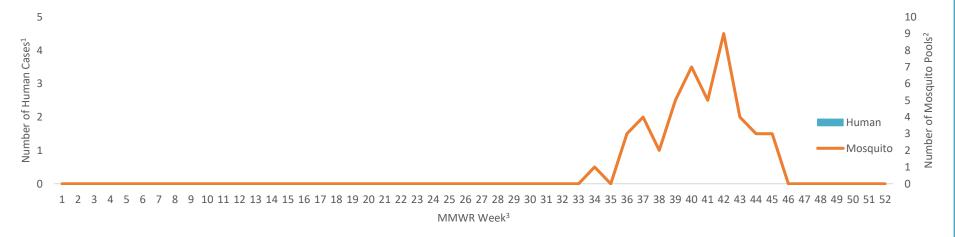


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Human Infections of SLE 1,3,* and SLE Positive Mosquito Pools by MMWR Week

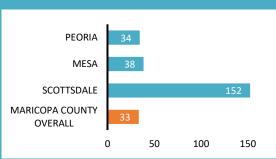


¹ A human case is an individual infected with WNV or SLE and with a clinically compatible illness



Rates of Human Illness per 100,000 Population Maricopa County Overall Rate and Cities§ with Highest Rates





SLE Maricopa County Overall 0.3[‡]

[‡]Due to the low number of cases in 2021, rates of human SLE illness by cities was not done.

² Mosquito pools are a collection of mosquitoes collected by MCDES from a county trap and tested positive for WNV and SLE

³ Human data are based on date of symptom onset, mosquito data are based on date of mosquito collection

^{*}Data are suppressed to prevent identification of cases due to small number (< 5) of cases

[§] Rates for cities with ≥ 100,000 populations shown